GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:726
ANSWERED ON:22.10.2008
DEFICIENCY OF IODINE AMONG CHILDREN
Khanna Shri Avinash Rai

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several children in the country are suffering from huge deficiency of iodine;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of efforts being made by the Government to make up the deficiency of iodine in the children?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE(DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)&(b): As per survey conducted by Directorate General of Health Services, Indian Council of Medical Research, Health Institutes and State Health Directorates, out of 324 districts surveyed covering all States/UTs, 263 districts are endemic to iodine deficiency disorders where the prevalence is more than 10%. Thus no State and UT is free from iodine deficiency disorders. It is estimated that about 71 million people are suffering from iodine deficiency disorders.

(c): Under the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme, the Government is promoting the use of iodized salt for prevention and control of iodine deficiency disorders. Various prototype publicity materials in the form of posters and pamphlets were prepared by different agencies and distributed to all States/UTs. Besides this, extensive Information Education Communication (IEC) activities arew being conducted through Doordarshan, All India Radio, Directorate of Field Publicity, Song & Drama Division, Directorate of Advertisement and Visual Publicity, State Health Directorates etc.